IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method ~~of capturing information useful in the building of queries,~~ for annotating a query component, the query component being a component of a query, comprising:

receiving ~~an indication of a selected~~ a selection of the query component;

receiving an annotation and a request to associate the annotation with the selected query component via ~~providing~~ an interface allowing a user to create ~~an~~ the annotation and request the association ~~to associate~~ with the selected query component; and

storing, on a storage medium, the annotation with a reference to the selected query component.

2.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein the selected query component comprises one or more query conditions.

3.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein the selected query component comprises one or more instance values of data, where instance values are any particular value inputted in a field.

4.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing an interface for building [[a]] the query by specifying query components; and

wherein receiving an indication of the selected query component comprises receiving a user selection of one or more query components specified, via the interface, for use in [[a]] the query.

5.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, further comprising providing an interface allowing the user to create a suggested substitution for the selected query component, the suggested substitution being selectable to replace the selected query component.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein storing the annotation with a reference to the one or more query components comprises:

      decomposing the query component into one or more fragments; and

      storing the fragments with the annotation.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein storing the annotation with a reference to the one or more query components comprises:

      substituting a parameter marker for an instance value contained in the query component; and

      storing the query component with the parameter marker with the annotation.

8. – 17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable storage medium containing a program for annotating query components which, when executed by a processor, performs operations comprising:

      receiving an indication of one or more selected a selection of a query component, the selected query component being a component of a query;

      receiving an annotation and a request to associate the annotation with the selected query component via providing an interface allowing a user to create an the annotation and request the association to associate with the selected query component; and

      storing, on a storage device, the annotation with a reference to the selected query component.

19.   (Original)   The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the operations further comprise providing an interface allowing the user to create a suggested substitution for the selected query component.

20.   (Original)   The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein storing the annotation with a reference to the one or more query components comprises:

substituting a parameter marker for an instance value contained in the query component; and

storing the query component with the parameter marker with the annotation.

21.   (Original)   The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the operations further comprise:

monitoring one or more query components specified for use in a query;

searching for annotations associated with the one or more query components; and

providing an indication of one or more annotations, if found, associated with the one or more query components.

22. – 29.   (Canceled)

30.   (Currently Amended)   A method, comprising:

receiving ~~an indication of a selected~~ a selection of the query component;

providing an interface allowing a user to create an annotation and request an association between the annotation and ~~to associate with~~ the selected query component;

in response to receiving the annotation and the request, storing, on a storage medium, the annotation with a reference to the selected query component;

monitoring one or more query components specified for use in a query being composed in a query building interface;

searching for stored annotations associated with the one or more query components; and

providing outputting an indication of one or more annotations, if found, associated with the one or more query components.